

**FRET PROTEASE ASSAYS FOR CLOSTRIDIAL TOXINS****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides clostridial  
5 toxin substrates useful in assaying for the protease  
activity of any clostridial toxin, including botulinum  
toxins of all serotypes as well as tetanus toxins. A  
clostridial toxin substrate of the invention contains a  
donor fluorophore; an acceptor having an absorbance  
10 spectrum overlapping the emission spectrum of the donor  
fluorophore; and a clostridial toxin recognition sequence  
that includes a cleavage site, where the cleavage site  
intervenes between the donor fluorophore and the acceptor  
and where, under the appropriate conditions, resonance  
15 energy transfer is exhibited between the donor  
fluorophore and the acceptor.

T03290" 86024650